

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

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FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4138

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 438

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ECRP, BF

SUBJ: 1973 BAHAMAS BUDGET

REF: NASSAU A-64

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) ON MARCH 28 MINISTER OF FINANCE PRESENTED 1973 BUDGET TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. REVENUES: ESTIMATED REVENUES ARE \$114,003,500. \$100.5 MILLION OF THIS IS TO COME FROM EXISTING TAXATION. THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO RAISE AN ADDITIONAL \$13.5 MILLION FROM INCREASES IN IMPORT DUTIES ON SPIRITS, BEER, CARS, BOATS AND CERTAIN CONSUMER DURABLES; RASING THE SURTAX ON IMPORTS FROM 7-1/2 PERCENT TO 12-1/2 PERCENT; BY RAISING THE STAMP DUTY ON LAND TRANSFERS; AND INTRODUCING A BUSINESS LICENSE FEE.

3. EXPENDITURES: RECURRENT EXPENDITURES ARE ESTIMATED AT \$104,265,380. AN ADDITIONAL \$13-1/2 MILLION IS TO BE SPENT ON THE CAPITALSIDE, NINE MILLION OF WHICH WILL COME FROM THE SUR-
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PLUS OF REVENUES OVER RECURRENT EXPENDITURES AND THE REMAINING \$4-1/2 MILLION FROM THE EXIMBANK'S SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LOAN. THE GOBI IS LOOKING FOR AN OVERALL REVENUE SURPLUS OF \$738,120.

4. PUBLIC DEBT: FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BUDGET SPEECH PUBLICLY DISCLOSED THE PUBLIC DEBT FIGURE--\$65 MILLION. THE FORMER FINANCE MINISTER, CARLTON FRANCIS, INSISTED ON KEEPING IT AND ON THE ALREADY OVERCROWDED VHF BAND. PROPOSED RADIO EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. IT WOULD BE ON ONE UHF BAND AND WOULD NET WITH SMALL NUMBER OF PORTABLE RADIOS ALREADY ON ORDER. DUE TO ABOVE-MENTIONED CONDITIONS, OVERCROWDED BAND, ETC., FUTURE PLANS CALL FOR CONVERSION OF

NATIONAL POLICE URBAN RADIO NETS TO UHF. PROPOSED RADIO SYSTEM WOULD, AT THIS TIME, BE SEPARATE, BUT A PART OF NATIONAL POLICE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXPANDED COMPATIBILITY AS FUTURE PLANS ARE MET. THIS PLAN HAS BEEN VETTED BY THE USAID'S TECHNICAL EXPERT.

4. WITH EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS HAS DEVELOPED A DETAILED PLAN FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. THIS PLAN IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. MOST INDICATIONS ARE THAT CUSTOMS, IN SPITE OF ITS PROBLEMS IN THE OVERALL ENFORCEMENT OF CUSTOMS LAWS, DOES HAVE THE WILL AND ABILITY TO MAKE

A SERIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO CONTROL OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. CUSTOMS PROPOSES TO ASSIGN 70 MEN TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. THIRTEEN OF THESE MEN WILL FORM A CENTRAL UNIT IN BOGOTA WHICH WILL WORK THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ON A SELECTIVE BASIS. THE REMAINDER WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE 19 CUSTOMS DISTRICTS. WITH EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, CUSTOMS HAS IMPROVED AND EXPANDED THEIR NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM. PLANS ARE PRESENTLY IN MOTION TO SEND FOUR MANAGEMENT LEVEL CUSTOMS OFFICERS TO THE U. S. FOR FIVE WEEKS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING. ALSO PLANNED IS AN IN-COUNTRY NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CUSTOMS SPONSORED BY THE USG. CUSTOMS AND NATIONAL POLICE HAVE ESTABLISHED HISTORY OF COOPERATION AND ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE. CUSTOMS AND DAS HAVE HAD THEIR DIFFERENCES BUT THEY DO COOPERATE. WE BELIEVE THAT BY THE PREPARATION OF A NARCOTICS PLAN AND ITS INTENTION TO SUBMIT IT TO THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ASAP IS AN INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN A NATIONAL EFFORT. THE COOPERATION OF COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS WITH U. S. CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY WHILE STILL IN THE

INITIAL STAGES ARE PROGRESSING FAVORABLY. BASED ON THE ACTIONS
ALREADY TAKEN BY CUSTOMS, IT IS BELIEVED THAT WITH ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES AND TRAINING THE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF CUSTOMS
EFFECTIVELY TO INTERDICT NARCOTICS WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED.
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5. EMBASSY SHARES THE SKEPTICISM OF THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE
COMMITMENT OF DAS LEADERSHIP IN CERTAIN AREAS OF NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT. THERE ARE OTHER AREAS, HOWEVER, WHERE DAS
ASSISTANCE
IS BASIC TO OUR EFFORTS. ONLY DAS HAS THE LEGAL CAPABILITY TO EXPEL
FOREIGNERS FROM COLOMBIA. DAS HAS COOPERATED REASONABLY WELL
HERE
AND IF DAS DECIDED NOT TO HELP US IN THIS AREA, IT COULD CRIPPLE
OUR EFFORTS. BNDD AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY HAVE ACHIEVED
SOME SUCCESS IN OBTAINING DAS COOPERATION AT THE SECOND AND THIRD
ECHELON. AT THIS TIME THERE EXISTS SOME COOPERATION BETWEEN DAS AND
OTHER AGENCIES. TO CUT OUT ALL ASSISTANCE TO DAS COULD CREATE
A SITUATION WHERE THE ADMITTEDLY IMPERFECT COOPERATION COULD
DETERIORATE AND DAMAGE OUR OVERALL EFFORT.
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